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## **ARTICLE ALERT: OCTOBER 2014**

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The Information Resource Center (IRC) is pleased to offer you Article ALERT, the monthly current awareness publication of the U.S. Embassy Bangkok's IRC. It offers abstracts of approximately 25 current articles and policy briefs from leading American journals and think tanks in six thematic areas with an emphasis on East Asian regional affairs. The views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

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### **SPOTLIGHT: FINANCIAL CRISES**

#### **1. "Southeast Asia and the Asian and Global Financial Crises"**

Rajah Rasiah, Kee Cheok Cheong, and Richard Doner. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, October 2014, 9 pages.

The authors discuss the comparative experience of the Southeast Asian market economies in the Asian financial crisis of 1997–98 and the global financial crisis of 2008–09.

#### **2. "Leaders Indicating"**

Ruchir Sharma. *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2014, 7 pages.

The author, Head of Emerging Markets and Global Macro at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, discusses economic boom and bust cycles, focusing on the global financial crisis of 2008 and the role of reform and complacency in fueling the cycles.

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## ECONOMICS

### 3. "Currency Wars and the International Economic Order"

[C. Fred Bergsten](#). Peterson Institute for International Economics, August 22, 2014, 42 pages.

What should International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization do to prompt adjustment by surplus countries and preempt currency wars? The author, a Senior Fellow and Director Emeritus Peterson Institute for International Economics, examines international currency conflict and its impact on global economic order.

### 4. "Banker to the Poor"

Stuart Reid. *Foreign Affairs*, September /October 2014, 8 pages.

What are the major challenges to economic development, and what is the World Bank doing about them? The author interviews World Bank President Jim Yong Kim on the Bank's official goals of ending extreme poverty and enabling people to participate in economic growth.

## THE UNITED STATES AND ASIA

### 5. "Explaining US Strategic Partnerships in the Asia-Pacific Region: Origins, Developments and Prospects"

Prashanth Parameswaran. *Contemporary Southeast Asia: A Journal of International & Strategic Affairs*, August 2014, 28 pages.

The author, a PhD candidate at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, explores the emergence of strategic partnerships as a new form of alignment in U.S. strategy in the Asia-Pacific under the Obama administration.

### 6. "History's Unfinished Business in East Asia"

[Rana Mitter](#). *Current History*, September 2014, 6 pages.

The author, Director of the China Center at the University of Oxford, analyzes the root cause of regional strife in East Asia, focusing on the effects of World War II and postwar reconstruction on 21st-century political conditions in the region.

## WORLD AFFAIRS

### 7. "Grand Strategy: The Fundamental Considerations"

F.G Hoffman. *Orbis*, September 2014, 14 pages.

The author, a Senior Research Fellow at the National Defense University's Institute for National Strategic Studies, examines the factors that influence the direction of grand or national strategy -- what it is; what its various components are; and what considerations should influence its design.

### 8. "America in Decay"

[Francis Fukuyama](#). *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2014, 18 pages.

The author, a Senior Fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, analyzes the problems of American politics and why many of the U.S. political institutions have become increasingly dysfunctional, and how to solve the situation.

**9. "Western Theory, Global World"**

Alex Young. *Harvard International Review*, Summer 2014, 3 pages.

The author discusses the international relations theory as a product of thinkers in Western countries, and the implications of the growing use of the applied game theory for international relations theory, focusing on the disadvantages of a western bias in international relations.

**10. "Perfecting Tyranny"**

Christopher J. Coyne and Abigail R. Hall. *Independent Review*, Fall 2014, 25 pages.

The authors explore how interventions abroad can affect domestic government activities in a way that reduces its citizens' freedoms and liberties, the theory of the boomerang effect of foreign interventions, and the definition of foreign intervention as the use of discretionary powers of the government to achieve a goal in another society.

**U.S. POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY****11. "What Her Opponents Are Thinking"**

Kevin Mahnken and Alice Robb. *The New Republic*, July 14, 2014, 2 pages.

The authors discuss potential U.S. Democratic Party presidential candidates for the 2016 election, focusing on why they may or may not enter the race against projected front-runner Hillary Clinton.

**12. "The End of the Transitions Era?"**

Marc F. Plattner. *Journal of Democracy*, July 2014, 12 pages.

The author, Vice President for Research and Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy, analyzes the current state and the future prospects of democracy, focusing on why the third wave of democratization —the era par excellence of democratic transitions— is different from its predecessors.

**GLOBAL POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT****13. "The New Face of Hunger"**

Tracie McMillan. *National Geographic*, August 2014, 24 pages.

The author analyzes the segment of the working population in the United States that is food insecure due to low wages, and examines the contrast between standard conceptions of hunger and the demographics of American who do not get enough food.

**14. "Youth Unemployment"**

Mohamed Ali. *Harvard International Review*, Summer 2014, 5 pages.

The author examines the problem of youth unemployment in cities across the world, the increasing proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 in developing countries, and the economic and social challenges facing the youth in developing nations.

**15. "Our Global Situation and Prospects for the Future"**

Jerome C. Glenn. *The Futurist*, September/October 2014, 6 pages.

The author, CEO of The Millennium Project and The Global Futures System, reviews "State of the Future," a report by the United Nations Millennium Project, focusing on key trends that are affecting the future direction future including climate change, civil strife and technological innovations.

**16. “How to Restore a Dying Reef”**

Linda Marsa. *Discover*, September 2014, 2 pages.

The author discusses hardy coral transplantation and how staghorn and elkhorn corals are being grown in nurseries for transplantation, and the use of hardy heat-resistant corals from the Belize Barrier Reef system to replenish damaged coral reefs.

**GLOBAL HEALTH****17. “A New Kind of Inheritance”**

[Michael K. Skinner](#). *Scientific American*, August 2014, 8 pages.

The author, a professor of biology at Washington State University, discusses research on epigenetic information and its impact on inheritance, focusing on the effects of certain pollutants, or stressors, that cause epimutations; the role of environmental factors in cell and tissue behavior; and the potential implications of epigenetic inheritance to public health and evolution.

**JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA****18. “Is Twitter Ruining Young Press Operatives?”**

Mark Harris. *Campaigns & Elections*, July/August 2014, 3 pages.

The author, a co-founder and partner at Cold Spark Media, discusses social media Twitter and its impact on press operatives during an election campaign period, focusing on the communication crisis and the need to balance the use of traditional and current media.

**19. “Build the future”**

Jacob Weisberg. *Columbia Journalism Review*, July/August 2014, 3 pages.

The author discusses the initiatives of Slate magazine that reflects the rethinking of its business model to support high-quality journalism and attract membership, as well as to stay profitable amidst the decline of print media.

**EDUCATION****20. “The Geography of Foreign Students in U.S. Higher Education: Origins and Destinations”**

[Neil G. Ruiz](#). The Brookings Institution, August 2014, pages.

The author explores what U.S. cities attracted the most foreign students, what countries those students came from, and where many students work temporarily once they graduate. Policy and practical steps that leaders at the global, national and local levels can take to maximize the economic and educational benefits of foreign students’ presence in U.S. metropolitan markets are discussed.

**21. “Stop Lecturing Me”**

Carl Wieman. *Scientific American*, August 2014, 2 pages.

With so much scientific evidence behind active learning, the obvious question is, why are these methods so seldom used in colleges and universities? The author, a Stanford University educationist and Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics, discusses the learning process of college students, focusing on active learning methods and obstacles to implementing such practices in colleges.

**22. “Consequential Learning”**

Jack Shelton. *National Civic Review*, Summer 2014, 3 pages.

The author discusses the school-based educational concept called Consequential Learning, which aims to strengthen the capacity of schools to help students develop skills such as information evaluation, open economy participation, and exercising proper civic and private moral judgment, focusing on the role communities play in student learning.

**LIBRARY TRENDS****23. “Will This Website Save Your Library (and Your Librarians)?”**

Dian Schaffhauser. *Education Digest*, September 2014, 7 pages.

The author discusses how a virtual learning commons, which turns the traditional library page on a school website from a one-way stream of stale information into a lively and participatory digital space for students and teachers, can be used to update traditional school library websites and help maximize the impact of changes taking place in schools.

**DESTINATION AMERICA****24. “The Soul of the South”**

[Paul Theroux](#). *Smithsonian*, July/August 2014, 37 pages.

Renowned travel writer Paul Theroux chronicles the living memory of an overlooked America and explores the history of social change in the U.S Deep South, concentrating on the human architecture, in particular the overlooked: The Submerged Fifth.

**25. “5 National Landmarks Threatened by Climate Change”**

[Annie Sneed](#). *Scientific American*, August 2014, 2 pages.

The author explores U.S. landmarks at risk of damage from the effects of climate change according to a report from the advocacy group Union of Concerned Scientists, including Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts, the Statue of Liberty in New York City, and Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in Buxton, North Carolina.

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